

The Files: Contract No: RD-160, T.O. 3

30 September 1961

[REDACTED]

Trip Report - RD-18 Agent Field Set

[REDACTED]

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1. Project Description:

The RD-18 is a high speed (1400 wpm) Tri-phase Agent Field Set. The unit consists of an antenna tuner, 100 watt transmitter, modulator and keyboard input storage, D.C. to D.C. power converter, rechargeable battery and a CW-AM Receiver. The entire unit is transistorized except the final amplifier of the transmitter.

2. Contractual Information:

- a. Initial Cost: \$319,442.00 Change in Scope \$37,939.00
- b. Initiation Date: 25 March 1960
- c. Completion Date: 25 October 1961
- d. Deliverable Items: 1 Prototype
9 Service Test Models

The number of service test models is to be reduced at a later date when sufficient pricing information is available. This will eliminate the need for an overrun in funds on this task as agreed at a meeting with the Office of Logistics and the contractor. The contractor estimated at this meeting 4 or 5 service test models.

3. Date of Meeting: 11 September 1961

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4. Place of Meeting: [REDACTED]

5. Persons Attending:

Agency

Non-Agency

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6. Contractor's Performance:

- a. On Schedule and Expected to Remain So: No
- b. Within Obligated Funds and Expected to Remain So: Yes
- c. Satisfactory Technical Progress: Subject to Improvement

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SUBJECT: Trip Report - RS-18 Agent Field Set with [REDACTED]

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7. Project Status:

1. The contractor had planned to have two RS-18 Field Sets ready for two weeks of transcontinental testing from three sites, Denver, Colo., St. Louis, Mo. and Washington, D.C. However, only one set was ready when the tests were started. The second unit was dropping transmitted pulses on channel 5 and 6 and the contractor was unable to deliver the unit to the field team for testing. This unit was worked on during the two week test period, but the cause of the trouble was not determined. This trouble would only occur when the unit was connected to an antenna and was not present when a dummy load was connected to the transmitter. At the receiving site, the only evidence of malfunction in the field set was they were unable to use channel 3 and drop out of two or three characters in the coder magnetic tape loop. The assessment of test results will have to wait for data reduction of received messages and correlation of field station logs. Generally the base station recognized almost all transmission and many messages were received 100% copy except for the tape drop out.

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2. [REDACTED] indicated that after a cursory examination of funds allotted, funds expended, and the rate of current expenditure, it appears that this task will not have enough funds to provide anymore service test models. He believed the program would have funds remaining, but they would be insufficient for one more unit unless additional funds are provided for several more units which would reduce costs per unit because of small quantity price break. The reasons given for the task being in this funding position was generally stated as design changes in the field equipment as the result of information obtained from field tests in June 1961 and underestimated cost of fabricating the second unit. These reasons can only be considered preliminary since a review of the cost and charging to the proper accounts, work on the prototype, the first service test model, and the training and test program has to be completed. This task is being reviewed and a presentation of the status will be given by the contractor during a visit to Washington early in October.

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